

Evaluation: Journal or Blog

You may submit weekly journal entries that will be seen only by the instructor or you may share your thoughts with your classmates via a blog in the Moodle site. In this journal or blog, you will reflect upon the weekly readings and attempt to draw connections between the readings and your major, society, your experiences, etc. Journals and blogs will be graded according to how complete and thoughtful the entries are.

Some things to ask yourself about your journal/blog: Are you being thorough? For example, instead of just saying, "This reminds me of something that happened in my life," did you explain what that something was? Are your connections deep? For example, instead of saying that two articles or novels related to each other, did you explain why they are related and how this will affect your views on the world? Are your connections really obvious or subtle and personally meaningful? (Not to say that this is a "subtlety contest" but I want you to make connections that are meaningful to you, not just surface comparisons). Have you talked both about personal and academic significance or connections? In other words, it's one thing to say that the chapter offers insights about the history of diversity in America, but it's another to explain what that means to you, how this knowledge influences you personally, how it relates to what you're learning in your other courses, etc. Your connections journal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criterion	1	3	5	Score
Depth of Thought	Author appears to have not spent much time on the journal, includes little reflection on concepts and readings. The journal seems "thrown together".	Author appears to have thought about the concepts and readings but does not fully explain his or her thoughts and opinions.	Author clearly has thought about the concepts and readings, fully explains thoughts and opinions. Entries are clear and thorough.	X3=
Personal Connections	Author makes little or no mention of how information affects him/her personally.	Author connects concepts to his or her own life but is hesitant to tackle tough issues or to speak in anything but vague and ambiguous terms.	Author connects concepts to his or her own life. Author is willing to explore tough issues and discuss his or her own ideas and experiences.	x2=
Schooling/ Society Connections	Author makes little or no mention of how course readings and activities affect his or her thoughts on his or her role in society.	Author discusses academic or societal connections but in very general terms. Author is unwilling or unable to reflect academically.	Author connects concepts and activities to other academic courses or other course readings. Author fully discusses how concepts and activities impact his or her as a member of society.	X2=
Clarity of Communication	Discussion is extremely difficult to follow.	Discussion is mostly clear, with few mistakes in grammar, usage, punctuation, etc. that hinder understanding.	While grammar, usage, etc. may not be perfect, the errors do not hinder understanding of the text.	X1=
Total:				

Grading Scale: 36-40 A 32-35 B 28-31 C 24-27 D 0-23 F